



Washington State Department of
Early Learning



The Early Learning Partnership 3-Year Action Plan

www.del.wa.gov/plan

July 1, 2010

Dear Members of the Early Learning Community,

As you know, we are moving toward adoption and implementation of the statewide Early Learning Plan this fall. We are proud of this effort, and excited that the Early Learning Plan will be a solid roadmap for ensuring all children in Washington are prepared to succeed in school and life. With this plan—along with the substantial progress made in early learning during recent legislative sessions (including measures to expand state-funded preschool to all eligible children by 2018, funding for early literacy, development of the WaKIDS pilot and the creation of a public-private home visiting account)—we are poised to build a statewide early learning system second to none! Thank you for your efforts and energy in making Washington’s youngest learners a top priority for our state.

After public input is considered and the plan is adopted, the Department of Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thrive by Five Washington have lead responsibility for implementing the Early Learning Plan. Over the past few months, we have been working diligently to establish a shared commitment to how our three organizations will proceed in implementing important strategies within the Plan. As a result, we have started to develop the Early Learning Partnership Three-Year Action Plan, which represents how our three organizations will work together and the critical work we will undertake as we all move forward in building our state’s early learning system.

It is important that you, our partners in early learning, understand the thoughtful process we have engaged in to prioritize the strategies within the plan to be our focus over the next three years.

As you know, the draft Early Learning Plan includes many important strategies. Some strategies can and should be implemented immediately. Others will require additional funding or planning time. To help our organizations in prioritizing what strategies will be represented in our Three-Year Action Plan, we have thoughtfully considered all of the input we have received to-date from partners and stakeholders throughout our Plan’s outreach process. In addition, we have been asking four key questions to help us in guiding our decisions about which strategies to focus on first:

- Is the strategy/action grounded in science and is it measurable?
- Does it address the preparation gap?
- Is there financing or is it a legislative priority for early learning?
- Is it grounded in the ELP vision and guiding principles?

As you review the strategies we have prioritized within our three-year action plan below, you will notice that we have not included every strategy from the Plan. Instead, we’ve selected strategies that are focused on those areas that our agencies can specifically contribute to in building our early learning system now. Many of you at the local, regional and state level also

will be part of implementing specific strategies within the Plan, and are critical to the development of a comprehensive system for early learning in our state.

For example, our partners at the Department of Health are currently leading the process of addressing Strategy #6, “Ensure Developmental Screening” by establishing a plan to ensure all young children in our state have access to developmental screenings. Similarly, Reach Out and Read Washington continues to forge ahead in supporting early literacy development through the medical home, addressing Strategy #10, “Increase Use of Early Literacy Services and Programs.

Clearly, it will take all of us in the early learning community to implement the Plan and build a system for early learning to ensure our children have every opportunity to be successful in school and life. Ultimately, the Early Learning Partnership Three-Year Action Plan is our first step in implementing strategies from our state’s Early Learning Plan, and we hope to continue to work with partners and communities in determining how we can all play a role in addressing all of the strategies within our Plan.

On September 1, the following documents will be released:

- A comprehensive statewide Early Learning Plan,
- A user-friendly companion ELP summary document, and
- The Early Learning Partnership Three-Year Action Plan (will not only include the priorities contained in this document, but will also include measureable, short-term outcomes that we hope to achieve as we begin to implement specific strategies in the Plan).

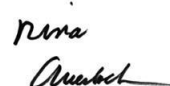
Finally, it is important we all remember that the Early Learning Plan is a “living document” that will be regularly reviewed and updated in the coming years, to make sure it reflects the strengths and needs of families in our state. Likewise, the Early Learning Partnership Three-Year Action Plan will continue to evolve as needed. Thank you for your continued commitment to early learning in our state. Together, we will build the early learning system that children in Washington deserve!



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DEL Director



Randy Dorn
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Priority ELP Strategies in the Early Learning Partnership

3-Year Action Plan*

Ready and Successful Children

- Build continuum of supports and services for infants, toddlers and their families
- Build an effective, coordinated home visiting system
- Increase use of early literacy services and programs
- Expand and enhance Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- Expand childhood oral health

Ready and Successful Parents, Families and Caregivers

- Provide more parenting learning opportunities
- Support family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care
- Create formal pathways for parent participation

Ready and Successful Early Learning Professionals and School-Age Workforce

- Implement comprehensive professional development and compensation system
- Implement Seeds to Success (quality rating and improvement system)
- Enhance licensing and subsidy policies
- Provide health, mental health and social-emotional consultation in early learning settings
- Promote the use of and embed Washington's early learning guidelines (the Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks) in early learning systems
- Expand registry for early learning professionals
- Provide health, mental health and social-emotional consultation in early learning settings

Ready and Successful Schools

- Align prekindergarten and K-3 instructional and programmatic practices
- Implement kindergarten readiness assessment process
- Implement phased-in full-day kindergarten

Ready and Successful Systems and Communities

- Build statewide infrastructure for partnerships and mobilization
- Expand P-20 longitudinal data system
- Strengthen public awareness of and commitment to early learning

** All work to be done in close partnership and collaboration with partners and stakeholders in the early learning community*

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Ready and Successful Children

ELP Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Entity	Time Frame
Build continuum of supports and services for infants, toddlers and their families	Transfer the administration of the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program from DSHS to DEL	DEL	July 1, 2010
	Coordinate OSPI B-3 dollars and ESIT together in a more strategic direction	DEL OSPI	December 2010
	Develop a B-3 plan and report to the Legislature	DEL TB5	December 1, 2010
Build an effective, coordinated home visiting system	Formalize policy regarding the Home Visiting Services Account	DEL TB5	SFY 2011-12
	Build a coordinated, culturally responsive home visiting system with evaluation, accountability, quality support and technical assistance	DEL TB5	SFY 2011-12
	Leverage federal, state and private home visiting dollars in strategic direction that benefits children and families	DEL TB5	SFY 2011-13
Increase use of early literacy services and programs	Expand the Culture of Literacy Initiative birth – grade 3	TB5 OSPI DEL	SFY 2011-12
	Explore creating a private/public matching fund for early literacy		
	Invest in Reach Out and Read WA (HB 6444, 2010 Supplemental Budget)		

Expand and enhance ECEAP	Establish pre-K entitlement program in 2011 and fund all eligible children by 2018	DEL	SFY 2011-2018
	----- Create a pre-K technical work group with options for having a program as part of basic education or as an entitlement. Work group must recommend program standards, eligibility, funding, and implementation schedule to QEC by November 2011	OSPI DEL TB5	----- SFY 2011
	----- Develop and implement statewide outcomes across all domains for children in ECEAP	DEL	----- SFY 2011
Early childhood oral health	Continue providing leadership to Head Start/AAPD Dental Home Initiative	DEL (HSSCO)	SFY 2010-11

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Ready and Successful Parents, Families and Caregivers

ELP Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Entity	Time Frame
Provide more parenting learning opportunities	Promote a new parent awareness campaign	TB5	SFY 2011
	Maximize role of the WA State Child Care Resource & Referral Network	DEL	SFY 2011
	Increase parent knowledge and involvement through Seeds to Success	DEL TB5	SFY 2011-13
Support family, friends and neighbor care (FFN)	Support continued development of the FFN system through the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network	DEL	SFY 2010-12
Create formal pathways for parent participation	Build culturally diverse parent involvement at the local community level to support early learning	TB5	SFY 2011-12

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Ready and Successful Early Learning Professionals and School-Age Workforce

ELP Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Entity	Time Frame
Implement comprehensive professional development and compensation system	Develop core competencies for Washington State early learning professionals	DEL TB5	December 2010
	Develop recommendations for a comprehensive professional development system and submit to the Legislature	DEL TB5	December 2010
	Develop statewide training on new core competencies and incentivize professionals to attend training	???	???
	Ensure there is a professional development planning and coordinating mechanism once PDC legislation sunsets.	DEL TB5	SFY 2011-12
Implement Quality Rating and Improvement System	Build public awareness for Seeds to Success to increase knowledge and understanding of the WA model and field test with key stakeholders.	DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
	Modify the Seeds to Success model and implement it consistently across the official field test sites	DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
	Directly link the QRIS model design and strategies to positive outcomes for children and families	DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
	Work with stakeholders to develop a strategy to modify licensing requirements to align with Seeds to Success	DEL	SFY 2010-12
	Validate the full set of quality standards for QRIS in field test sites through rating so that we have a QRIS model that has been tested to have validated standards	DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
	Articulate and begin implementation of the five-year vision for advancing Seeds to Success statewide	DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
Enhance licensing requirements	Explore voluntary preschool certification	OSPI DEL	SFY 2011-12

	Develop a plan to improve licensing due to the Legislature by January 15, 2011. Plan would specify resources necessary for improvements such as continuing licenses, technology, weighted regulations, and evidence-based rule making.	DEL	SFY 2011
Improve subsidy policies	Streamline the child care eligibility process for families enrolled in ECEAP, Head Start and Early Head Start by implementing a 12-month reauthorization period that makes it easier for working families to receive continuity of care for the child(ren)	DEL	SFY 2010-11
Promote the use of and embed Washington's early learning guidelines (the Early Learning and Development Benchmarks) in early learning systems	Develop and implement a collaborative multi-cultural process to review, update, and align the Benchmarks and K-12 standards	DEL TB5 OSPI	December 2010
	Develop curriculum/training on the Benchmarks and incentivize early learning professionals to attend training	DEL OSPI	SFY 2011-13
	Ensure contracts for professional development let from DEL embed and use the core competencies and Benchmarks	DEL	SFY 2012
Expand registry for early learning professionals	Build a high-quality and accessible state early learning professional development registry to promote a well-trained and educated, supported, and better compensated early childhood and school-age workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a registry database platform for early learning • Develop registry system of processes, procedures and protocols for the registry database 	DEL TB5	SFY 2011-12
Provide health, mental health and social-emotional consultation in early learning settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop DEL regional system of consultation services for improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop 10 regional hubs to lead improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers • Build statewide capacity to support regional system of interdisciplinary consultation services. • Contract with a multicultural early learning expert to help DEL integrate cultural competency into regional consultation services. 	DEL TB5	SFY 2010-11

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Ready and Successful Schools

ELP Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Entity	Time Frame
Align prekindergarten and K-3 instructional and programmatic practices	Develop a comprehensive P-grade 3 plan designed to support implementation of P-grade 3 models throughout the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate development of a theory of change P-grade 3 in Washington. Facilitate development of a statewide P-grade 3 networking strategy Provide support and resources to school districts in continuing to develop P-grade 3 models in communities Embed PK-3 research and practices into both early learning and K-3 programs and initiatives 	OSPI DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
Implement kindergarten assessment	Pilot WaKIDS in 2010-2011 school year to 3,000 students statewide	OSPI DEL TB5	SFY 2010-11
	Develop plan for expanding WaKIDS implementation beyond the pilot phase	OSPI DEL TB5	SFY 2010-12
Implement phased-in full-day kindergarten	Continue phasing-in FDK in 2011-13 biennium; fully implemented by 2017-18	OSPI	SFY 2010-2019
	Develop and submit budget request for continued phase-in of FDK	OSPI	SFY 2010

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Ready and Successful Systems and Communities

ELP Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Entity	Time Frame
Build statewide infrastructure for partnerships and mobilization.	Build new DEL regional infrastructure to support quality improvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 10 regional hubs to lead improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers. Build accountability system and capacity for it, include: program evaluation, child and teacher/provider assessment (where possible), evaluation, and a data collection and reporting framework. Analyze and redirect existing resources to sharpen focus and align accountability Develop a strategy to work with stakeholders to develop a sustainable long-term governance system 	DEL TB5	SFY2011
	Evolve ELAC through Washington's application for the federal State Advisory Councils funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity within governance structure and function (staffing) Integrate delivery system Integrate parent voice Continue to work with National Governors Association 	DEL	SFY2011-12
	Invest in the development and support of early learning coalitions.	DEL TB5	SFY2010-2013
	Bolster and strengthen the Early Learning Partnership to clearly define roles and responsibilities of organizations to ensure accountability and reflects the work being done by other state and local organizations	DEL TB5 OSPI	SFY2011
Expand P-20 longitudinal data system	Conduct a data needs assessment that identifies data and analysis needed	DEL TB5 OSPI	SFY2010
	Implement 3-year plan outlined in the federal Education Data System grant application (approved May, 2010)	DEL TB5	SFY2011 -13

Strengthen public awareness and commitment	Develop brand for school readiness that reflects ELP	TB5 DEL	
	Continue media and community based strategies for building public awareness	TB5	SFY2011-13
	Collaborate and partner with stakeholders to advance early learning priorities	TB5	SFY2011-13

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